

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
POLITICAL FEATURE NO. 1-1724
MARK WILLEN/WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 28, 1976

ELECTION '76: FORD/CARTER ON FOREIGN POLICY
///TAPE INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY///

ANNCR:

AS THE LONG AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN DRAWS TO A CLOSE,
QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY HAVE COME MORE TO THE FOREFRONT. MARK
WILLEN REPORTS ON THE DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE EMERGED BETWEEN THE
FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF CANDIDATES FORD AND CARTER:

VOICE:

THE DEBATE OVER FOREIGN POLICY HAS FOCUSED MORE ON THE
ABILITY OF EACH CANDIDATE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAN ON THE
ISSUES THEMSELVES. MISTER FORD HAS TRIED TO CAPITALIZE ON THE
LACK OF EXPERIENCE OF MISTER CARTER -- CHARGING THAT HE IS NAIVE
AND INCAPABLE OF SHOULDERING THE DIFFICULT RESPONSIBILITIES OF
THE PRESIDENCY. AND MISTER FORD HAS BEEN URGING AUDIENCES TO
STICK WITH HIS PROVEN POLICIES...RATHER THAN TAKE THE RISK OF
THE UNKNOWN:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- FORD

"YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WISH TO BUILD ON THE
GREAT TRADITIONS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, THE POLICIES THAT
KEPT US STRONG AND AT PEACE, OR WHETHER YOU WISH TO BREAK FROM
THESE TRADITIONS, VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH A DOCTRINE
THAT IS UNTESTED, UNTRIED, AND IN MY VIEW, POTENTIALLY
DANGEROUS."

VOICE:

IN RESPONSE, MISTER CARTER HAS ACCUSED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION
OF LOSING SIGHT OF TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES. HE HAS PROMISED
TO RESTORE WHAT HE SEES AS MORALITY IN FOREIGN POLICY:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CARTER

"WE OUGHT TO BE A BEACON FOR NATIONS WHO SEARCH FOR PEACE, AND
WHO SEARCH FOR FREEDOM, WHO SEARCH FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, WHO
SEARCH FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVEN'T BEEN LATELY. WE CAN
BE ONCE AGAIN."

VOICE:

BUT THE DIFFERENT EMPHASES OF THE CANDIDATES HAVE N O T PRODUCED VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE ISSUES. BOTH CANDIDATES INSIST THEY WANT TO MAINTAIN A STRONG DEFENSE; BOTH WANT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WITHOUT YIELDING TO SOVIET PRESSURE; BOTH WANT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA; BOTH WANT TO MAINTAIN STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL; AND BOTH FAVOR STRENGTHENING TIES WITH AMERICAN ALLIES IN GENERAL. THE CANDIDATES SEEM TO SHARE THE SAME GOALS...IT IS MORE IN TACTICS AND STYLE THAT THEY DISAGREE.

THUS PRESIDENT FORD SAYS THE DEFENSE BUDGET SHOULD BE INCREASED TO KEEP AMERICA STRONG. MISTER CARTER SAYS AMERICA CAN REMAIN STRONG IF WASTE IS ELIMINATED AND THE BUDGET IS DECREASED. MISTER CARTER CRITICIZES MISTER FORD FOR N O T INSISTING ON THE END OF REPRESSION IN SUCH NATIONS AS CHILE AND SOUTH KOREA. MISTER FORD INSISTS MORE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY.

ACCORDING TO OPINION POLLS, THIS DEBATE OVER TACTICS DOES N O T SEEM TO HAVE SPARKED MUCH INTEREST AMONG VOTERS. IN THE CLOSING WEEKS OF THE CAMPAIGN, MISTER FORD HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE FOREIGN POLICY AN ISSUE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HIS EXPERIENCE GIVES HIM THE ADVANTAGE TRADITIONALLY, AMERICAN VOTERS GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS THAN FOREIGN POLICY, BUT MISTER FORD IS OBVIOUSLY HOPING TO CHANGE THAT PATTERN.

NES/GH/RCS